

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended to define the thickness of the film dielectric in a more definite manner. Thus these claims now recite that the film dielectric has a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 μ m, a definite range clearly supported by the specific embodiments recited on page 7 of the specification.

As amended, it is considered that Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 12 and dependent Claims 2-8, are no longer rejectable under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reasons given by the Examiner.

The rejection of Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as anticipated by Malone et al. is considered to lack merit.

Unlike the ceramic passive component defined by Claims 11 and 12 the ceramic passive component, the array of voltage variable capacitors of the Malone et al. patent does not comprise a thin film dielectric of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 microns. There is no teaching, or even suggestion, in the Malone et al. patent that the dielectric employed in the array shown therein (block 152) is a thin layer particularly of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 microns.

The rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Malone et al. is considered to lack merit.

The Malone et al. patent is not considered to teach, or even suggest, the ceramic passive component defined by even Claim 1, the most generic claim.

Unlike the component defined by Claim 1, there is no teaching, or even suggestion, in the Malone et al. patent that the dielectric employed in the component shown therein (block 152) is a thin layer of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 microns.

An early allowance of the claims and case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By Norman N. Spain
Norman N. Spain, Reg. 17,846
Attorney
(914) 333-9653

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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On Oct. 28, 2002

By Elissa De Luccy

MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. (Four Time Amended) A ceramic passive component which comprises a carrier substrate (1), at least one first electrode (2) formed of a material selected from the group consisting of metals and alloys and having a first surface disposed, on the substrate, at least one thin film dielectric (5) of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 μ m having a first surface disposed, on a second surface of the at least one first electrode opposing said first surface of the at least one first electrode, and at least one second electrode (6) disposed on a second surface of the at least one dielectric opposing said first surface of the at least one dielectric, wherein the at least one thin film dielectric (5) comprises a ferroelectric ceramic material with a voltage-dependent relative dielectric constant ϵ_r .

9. (Thrice Amended) A voltage-controlled oscillator with as its capacitive component a ceramic passive component which comprises a carrier substrate (1), at least one first electrode (2) formed of a material selected from the group consisting of ~~metal~~-metals and alloys and having a first

surface disposed on the substrate, at least one thin film dielectric (5) of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 μ m having a first surface disposed, on a second surface, opposed to said first surface of the at least first electrode, and at least a second electrode (6) disposed on a second surface of the at least one thin film dielectric, opposed to said first surface of the at least one dielectric, wherein the at least one thin film dielectric (5) comprises a ferroelectric ceramic material with a voltage-dependent relative dielectric constant ϵ_r .

10. (Four Times Amended) A filter with as its capacitive component a ceramic passive component which comprises a carrier substrate (1), at least one first electrode (2) formed of a material selected from the group consisting of metals and alloys and having a first surface disposed on the substrate, at least one thin film dielectric (5) of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 μ m having a first surface disposed on a second surface of the at least one first electrode opposed to said first surface and at least one second electrode (6) having a surface disposed on said second surface of the at least one thin film dielectric wherein the at least one thin film dielectric (5) comprises

a ferroelectric ceramic material with a voltage-dependent relative dielectric constant ϵ_r .

11. (Thrice Amended) A delay line with as its capacitive component a ceramic passive component which comprises a carrier substrate (1), at least one first electrode formed of a material selected from the group consisting of metal and alloys and (2) having a first surface disposed on the substrate at least one thin film dielectric (5) of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 μ m having a first surface disposed on a second surface of the one first electrode opposed to said first surface and at least one a second electrode (6) having a surface disposed on said second surface of the at least one thin film dielectric wherein the at least one thin film dielectric (5) comprises a ferroelectric ceramic material with a voltage-dependent relative dielectric constant ϵ_r .

12. (Thrice Amended) A capacitive ceramic comprising a carrier substrate (1), at least one first electrode (2) formed of a material selected from the group consisting of metals and alloys and having a first surface disposed on the substrate at least one dielectric (5) of a thickness in the range of about 0.25-0.75 μ m with a voltage-dependent

relative dielectric constant ϵ_r having a second surface opposed to said first surface disposed on a second surface of the at least one first electrode opposed to said first surface and at least one second electrode (6) disposed on said second surface of the at least one thin film dielectric as a capacitive component.